

**Floral Street School
School Council**
Meeting Minutes: January 27, 2004

In attendance: Joe Sawyer, Jane Lizotte, Kara Frankian, Gina-Marie Kelly, Kathy Rivenburg, Bob Wilson, Karmen Bogdesic, Kristin Franger, Sandy Fryc, Sue Campos, Larry Lynch and Amy Oddo.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

There was no public participation.

Web Page/List Serv:

- The List Serv is up and there are 40 addresses to date.

Elementary Report Card/Parent Conference Day:

The next report card will be coming out on March 22nd. This will be the “full-blown” edition with performance level ratings and comments. Teachers are working on defining expectations. Report cards will reflect performance at a point in time relative to the expectations.

- The school Leadership Team is working on defining an appropriate approach for grading SPED students. A letter will go home to the parents of these students explaining the approach.
- Q: Do SPED students take the MCAS tests? A: Mr. Sawyer explained that 99% of these students take the test with minor to significant accommodations (i.e. large print, test read, etc.) and that the 1% of students with severe disabilities takes an alternative portfolio assessment.

The next Parent Conference Day is March 24th. Mr. Sawyer pointed out that although the Oct. conferences were intended for parents and teachers to meet the March conferences will be focused on students with academic and behavioral issues as well as those student not meeting their potential.

- The committee reviewed a letter from Dr. Bent summarizing the purpose/guidelines for parent conferences that the School Leadership Team discussed in their January 2004 meeting.
- The following was noted based on review of Dr. Bent letter:
 - Students can participate in conferences. Some teachers include the students. It needs to be discussed with the teacher.
 - Specialists will be accessible in one place during specific time periods.
 - Recommend taping the information sessions for the new report cards so parents unable to attend during scheduled time can view.

Falcon Facts:

- Falcon facts started this week for 4th grade. 3rd grade will start next week after Student Council members show PowerPoint presentation to each classroom.
- Students will be encouraged to use FF at home.

FY05 Budget:

- The first level of budget cuts is currently taking place. It's not clear at this time how much state aid the town will be allocated. The town will pick up more than expected from the states "circuit breaker" program. This program rewards districts that develop SPED programs that keep SPED students in the district.

Middle School Transition/Contingencies:

- The Middle School project is behind schedule. At this point it is out of the towns control and the following contingency plans are being considered (in no particular order).
 1. If it opens on time grades 5 & 6 will be at Sherwood and grades 7 & 8 will be at Oak as planned.
 2. Grades 5 & 6 will be at Sherwood as planned. 7th grade will move to rented space and 8th grade will remain at the H.S. until Oak is completed.
 3. If a portion of Oak is able to be occupied the 7th grade will move to Oak and grades 5 & 6 will go to Sherwood as planned. The 8th grade will remain at the H.S. until the rest of Oak is completed.
 4. Grade configuration will stay as is. Floral 5th grade, 6th and 7th grade at M.S. and 8th grade at the H.S. until Oak is completed.

Option 3 is more likely then Option 2 due to cost. If Option 4 takes place the 5th grades will stay where they are for the entire year. Option 4 gives no space relief nor class size reduction.

- The Floral 5th grade will fall under the new principal at Sherwood regardless of how Oak St. opens.
- Recommendations will be made to the School Committee by March 1st and School Committee should make a final decision by the end of March.
- Floral Street School will not be affected much by the opening of Oak Street. Floral will have 6 1st grade classrooms and Beal will have 5 for the next school year.
- The Kindergarten and 1st grade teacher from Beal and Floral have been working together to define expectations for these grades.

- There are three finalists for the Sherwood principal. They will be spending a day in the district next week at which time some of the 4th and 5th grade Student Council members will have the opportunity to interview the finalists. A parent forum will be held on Feb. 4th. (Note: Since the meeting Mr. Daniel Costello, Principal of the Gardner Middle School, was appointed as the new principal of the Sherwood Middle School).

School Start Time Committee:

- The committee has recommended to the Coordinating Council and the School Committee to change the HS start time to 8am and all other schools to start by 9am. The School Committee will decide if this is feasible and when it might take place. The cost is the biggest issue. The school bus contract is up in '05/'06, this may be a good time to negotiate.

School Improvement Plan:

Discussion has been moved to next meeting.

Parent Pick-up/Drop-off:

- It was commented that not enough attention is given to the safety of the children with parents on cell phones, family pets jumping around, kids getting in with backpacks on, etc. What are our responsibilities?
 - A notice has gone home to parents to remind them of proper drop-off/pick-up. There have been issues with children being dropped-off at the handicap parking area and the center parking area and crossing through these areas without parental supervision.
- It was agreed that since a Student Council member had similar concerns we will have Student Council come up with a way of sending a message to the parents (i.e. Putting sign up at drop-off/pick-up.)

“Morning Work”:

- A couple parents had made comment to a School Council member that their child had lost recess for not completing their “Morning Work”. What is the policy?
 - Mr. Sawyer stated all teachers should be aware that students are not responsible for completion/make-up of “Morning Work”. On occasion when the work does need to be completed it should not be on the student’s own time or for homework. He will reiterate the policy with the teachers.
- Parents should confirm with the teacher a message from a child to be clear on the problem. One of the teacher SC members commented she might use makeup of “Morning Work” as a consequence for poor choices/inappropriate behavior during “Morning Work”.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the Floral media center. The School Improvement Plan was handed out for review.

Respectfully submitted: Sue Campos